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Justice Janice Rogers Brown Confirmed for Federal Appeals Court

The U.S. Senate today voted to confirm the appointment of California Supreme Court Justice Janice Rogers Brown to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. After the official issuance of a presidential commission, Justice Brown will be free to take the oath of office as a federal judge, at which time she will officially leave her position as Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court.

Following Justice Brown's departure from the California Supreme Court, the Supreme Court will continue to perform its work with the remaining six regular members of the court until a new justice is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Commission on Judicial Appointments. The Supreme Court may act in any case with the concurrence of four justices. In cases in which oral argument has already been heard, an opinion may be filed with less than a seven-member court so long as four justices concur in the result. If additional oral arguments are heard before a new Supreme Court justice is appointed and confirmed, a Court of Appeal justice will be assigned temporarily to participate in each case, pursuant to the court's established rotational assignment policy.

Justice Brown was appointed to the California Supreme Court by Governor Pete Wilson on March 28, 1996, and was confirmed by the Commission on Judicial Appointments on May 2, 1996. She was elected by the voters on November 3, 1998, to serve the remaining eight years of the term of office to which she was appointed.